ECEAP Edition

Good friends, good times

Share your news and ideas across the state

by Michael Zimmerman

We are proud to announce the availability of a new resource for ECEAP programs throughout the state: the *ECEAP Edition*! The *ECEAP Edition* is a monthly newsletter coordinated by CTED, ECEAP's administering agency. It is designed to provide a wide range of information, with a primary audience of ECEAP Directors, program staff, and participating families.

The most important feature of the *ECEAP Edition* is **you**! We see this newsletter as a service of the ECEAP program, and not as just another piece of paper coming from CTED to contractors. What this means is we want you to participate in the growth of this newsletter. The *ECEAP Edition* needs to be relevant to your day-to-day activities, with important, useful information that can be shared at all levels of your program. To accomplish this, we need your input for story ideas, helpful resources, and more.

> *"The most important feature of the ECEAP Edition is you!"*

One exciting feature of the *ECEAP Edition* is that it is designed for both electronic and paper distribution. We will be posting each monthly edition in Adobe Acrobat format on our ECEAP website. That way, you never have to worry about losing your only copy. Plus, back issues will always be available for those moments when you just know there was a great article on that very same problem you discussed in your staff meeting this morning.

We are also committed to bringing you concise information on the latest developments in the early childhood and family support fields. For more in depth information, we will provide contact information and links to internet resources whenever possible. Our vision is that the *ECEAP Edition* will serve as your must-read, first-choice resource when you want to know more about all things ECEAP. We look forward to working with you! ◆

How can I get involved?

All you need to do to help make the *ECEAP Edition* an invaluable resource is get involved. But how? Submit your ideas to CTED! Children's Services Unit staff at CTED will publish the newsletter around the first of each month, so the deadline for your submissions will be the 15th of the month prior to publication. Of course, we welcome concepts as well as fully developed articles. Just use your imagination!

Some ideas for good information to provide include: recent awards or milestones for programs and/or staff; service delivery methods that you are particularly proud of; parent and family successes; impending developments on the regional, state, or national scene; and much, much more.

The fastest and best way to provide story ideas, articles, and more is to e-mail them to ECEAP_Admin@cted.wa.gov. Alternatively, you can contact Michael Zimmerman, CSU Administrative Secretary, at (360) 586-2469 phone or (360) 586-0489 FAX. Plain text, like a regular e-mail message, is the best file format to use for articles, but feel free to attach just about any type of files you have, as our equipment should be able to convert them as necessary.

As with all state publications, we will make the *ECEAP Edition* available in other accessible formats upon request. Feel free to contact us with your ideas, requests, and feedback. ◆

WASHINGTON STATE'S
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Unravel the World Wide Web

by Michael Zimmerman

For most of us, whenever we hear the term "World Wide Web", it conjures up images of helplessly floating in a tangled trap, not sure where to go or how to get out. Despite the frenzied media attention to all things ".com", it seems that navigating the Internet is more difficult and less fruitful than ever. Fear not, intrepid web surfers, because nothing helps pinpoint exactly what you need more than a friendly guide who's already been there!

Chances are, someone across the state has already stumbled upon the Web address, or URL, for the site that you need to find before lunch. Other people may have treasured Internet resources that they refer to again and again. We want the *ECEAP Edition* to be a clearinghouse of Internet information where people can share links, tips, and reviews. With that in mind, we hope to make "The Link Exchange" a regular feature of this newsletter. If the technology cooperates (which it rarely does - but that's an idea for a different column!), we can even provide direct hyperlinks right from the electronic version of the *ECEAP Edition* on your screen!

That looks like fun!

To the right are some examples of what we can provide. They happen to be some of my "treasured resources" for finding information quickly. If these are old hat to you, be sure to submit some links of your own so that everyone can race down the information superhighway, without fear of being run over. (Too many Internet metaphors, I know. But they're hard to resist!) Good luck!

I would be remiss if I failed to mention our own ECEAP website. Be sure to check back in future issues of the *ECEAP Edition* for updates on our plans for expanding and enhancing our internet services, along with information on an upcoming redesign of our homepage. You can find us at **http://www.cted.wa.gov/info/csd/waeceap/index.html**.

Another helpful link, given the current Legislative Session, can be found at **http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/default.htm**. This is the homepage for the WA State Legislature, and you can find everything from updated bill information to Legislative District maps and biographies of your favorite Legislators. Also on this site is a fully searchable database of current RCW, WAC, bills, and more. You can find this at **http://search.leg.wa.gov/pub/textsearch/default.asp**.

Washington's award-winning home page, Access Washington (**http://access.wa.gov/**), has a vast amount of information on far more than just state government. Among the many helpful resources you can find are the State Agency Index, with links to the homepages of state agencies, boards, and commissions (**http://access.wa.gov/government/awstate.asp**), as well as a link to a comprehensive federal government information site maintained by the U.S. Department of Commerce (**http://www.fedworld.gov/#usgov**).

Remember, if you have some links of your own that you feel other ECEAP people ought to know about, be sure to submit them to "The Link Exchange"! ◆

Calling all shutterbugs

CTED staff in Olympia would like to update our public relations files with new pictures of ECEAP at work. We plan to go out into the field, usually in conjunction with Program Review or general site visits, to take our own photos, but we also welcome any pictures that you would like to submit. Of course, we will need to obtain signed release forms from the parents of any ECEAP children in any photos we plan to take or use, and we will coordinate our efforts in advance with ECEAP Directors to ensure that we don't cause any disruption to your programs.

We would like pictures of children, teachers, program and operations staff, parents, and families in any setting as appropriate. Photos that convey the interactions and comprehensive nature of ECEAP are more powerful than structured poses.

If you have a particular site that you think would be a great candidate for our photos, feel free to contact us. As always, we welcome all comments and suggestions you may have to improve the quality of our services. ◆